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Letter dated 3 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 31 May 2001 from Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister states that, on Friday, 18 May 2001, three American warplanes perpetrated a criminal attack on an Iraqi Airways Boeing 707 civilian aircraft when they intercepted it while on a domestic flight carrying civilian passengers between Baghdad and Basrah governorates and trailed it for a distance of 17 air miles, provoking the pilot and asking him to identify the type and country of his aircraft and jeopardizing the safety of innocent civilian passengers.

The Minister affirms the Government of Iraq's condemnation of this act of aerial piracy and states that the United States and the United Kingdom bear international responsibility for such acts of aggression. He urges you to fulfil the responsibilities entrusted to you under the Charter by condemning these daily outrages and endeavouring to end them.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mohammed **Al-Douri**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 3 June 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I should like to inform you that three American warplanes have perpetrated a wanton and criminal attack on an Iraqi Airways Boeing 707 civilian aircraft while it was on a domestic flight carrying civilian passengers between Baghdad and Basrah governorates.

This act of aerial piracy began at 1147 hours on Friday, 18 May 2001, and the United States and British aggressor aircraft trailed the Iraqi civilian plane for a distance of 17 air miles, provoking the pilot and asking him to identify the type and country of his aircraft.

Such wanton aggression on the part of the United States and the United Kingdom not only constitutes a serious violation of Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity and endangers the lives and safety of a large number of innocent civilians but also represents a flagrant and deliberate violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law and a genuine threat to international peace and security created by two countries that are permanent members of the Security Council.

The United States of America and the United Kingdom are committing acts of aggression and violating Iraq's airspace and territory on a daily basis on the pretext of allegedly enforcing the illegal and unlawful no-flight zones that were imposed by these two countries in a pathological display of military power that poses a threat to the security and safety of innocent civilian citizens and represents an assault on the sovereignty of an independent Member State of the United Nations.

The ongoing daily aggression to which Iraq is being subjected requires that you fulfil the responsibilities entrusted to you by the Charter by condemning these daily outrages and endeavouring to end them.

Iraq affirms that the United Kingdom and the United States of America bear full international responsibility for these actions, and it reserves its right to claim ample compensation for all the resulting damage sustained by the people of Iraq.

(*Signed*) Tariq **Aziz**
Deputy Prime Minister
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs